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LETTER DATED 21 JUNE 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 21 June 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation concerning a peace-keeping operation by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) within the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

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Annex

Letter dated 21 June 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are well aware, the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, still remains extremely tense and carries the risk of further bloodshed. The fact that there is still no solution to the problem of over 250,000 refugees and displaced persons creates a climate in which nothing can be ruled out, not even acts of destabilization by elements not under the control of the parties.

No one in the international community is likely to challenge the view that a peace-keeping operation to help avert a possible resumption of hostilities is indispensable. With the support of the Russian Federation, your Special Envoy, Ambassador Brunner, has for many months been engaged in initiatives aimed, inter alia, at creating the conditions for such a peace-keeping operation.

In your report of 3 May 1994 (S/1994/529), you note that the appropriate conditions have not been fulfilled for a recommendation to the Security Council to decide at this stage to establish a United Nations peace-keeping force for Abkhazia. However, the time factor as far as the deployment of such an operation is concerned has today become critical in regard to peace and security, and in regard to the conditions necessary for further movement towards a political settlement.

On 14 May 1994, the Georgian and Abkhaz parties signed the Agreement on a Cease-fire and Separation of Forces in Moscow. Among other things, the Agreement includes an appeal to the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States to take a decision on the use of a collective peace-keeping force within the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. Moreover, the parties addressed special appeals to the President of the Council, and President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin.

Acting on the basis of the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, CIS has decided to introduce a collective force into the conflict zone for a period of six months, with an advance contingent being deployed immediately and consisting of Russian troops present in Abkhazia. The Security Council will of course always be kept fully informed of the size of such forces and of their activities, in accordance with Article 54 of the Charter.

CIS is anxious not to supplant the United Nations, but to help create the most favourable conditions for the efforts of the United Nations. It is therefore essential to establish from the very outset close cooperation between the peace-keeping force and the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG). We hope that the Security Council will decide to enlarge the staff of the Mission and expand and refine its mandate.

We trust that the international community will welcome this CIS initiative, especially as it is consistent with one of the options presented to you. The establishment, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a special fund for

voluntary contributions would help to attract a wide range of States to the peace-keeping effort.

We assume that, at the same time, the United Nations should continue its active efforts to mediate with a view to finding a comprehensive political settlement in Abkhazia. For its part, the Russian Federation remains prepared as usual to lend its full support.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) A. KOZYREV